



TONTO NATIONAL FOREST **NEWS RELEASE**

Tonto National Forest, 2324 East McDowell Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85006 www.fs.usda.gov/Tonto

For Immediate Release
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Prescribed fire treatments of 6,300 acres planned through November on the Pleasant Valley Ranger District

Young, Ariz. (November 1, 2011) – Pleasant Valley Ranger District fire specialists will be conducting a series of prescribed fire operations of approximately 6,300 acres in the Cherry analysis area through November on the Tonto National Forest.

As weather conditions permit, a black line will be put around several burn blocks, treating up to several hundred acres daily, dependent on air quality conditions.

Prescription fire requests must be approved by Arizona Department of Environmental Quality for each day of the burning operations. As weather permits, after the black line is complete, aerial ignition of the interior portion of the burn blocks will be conducted.

The Cherry prescribed fire will be along both sides of State Highway 288 and are composed of three planning units (or blocks):

Peters Corral block boundaries: Beginning at Forest Road (FR) 238 and State Hwy 288, south on Hwy 288 to FR 416 (Buzzard Roost Rd.) west along FR 416, north to private land boundary, continuing east along southern boundary of private land, at the southeast corner north to junction of private land and FR 238, north along southern side of FR 238 to the starting point.

Cow Flat block boundaries: The northern boundary is Cherry Creek ranch private land boundary east to the FR 329, south along FR 329 to its junction with FR 912, and North on FR 912 to the starting point. This individual burn block will be blacklined on the north and east side.

Snow Tank block boundaries: The southern boundary is Graveyard Canyon beginning at the confluence with State Hwy 288 east to a two-track trail, west along the two-track (old dump road) to its junction with Hwy 288, south on Hwy 288 to the starting point at Graveyard Canyon.

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Prescribed fire, PV Ranger District
October – November, 2011

Ignitions are projected to be complete for the start of the late rifle elk hunt, although scouting may be impacted in a portion of game management unit 23. The late archery elk hunts will also be impacted during this time period.

Residual smoke will be seen for a several days after ignition.

Prescribed fire treatments are always dependent on optimal weather conditions, such as fuel moisture content, temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and directions, and other variables.

For further information, please call the Pleasant Valley Ranger District at 928-462-4300. Residents can also stay updated on prescribed fires at www.fs.usda.gov/Tonto.